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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Washington 25, D. C.

873376

JAPANESE BEETLE CONTROL

NATURE OF THE PEST

The Japanese Beetle is green and bronze in color and about one-half inch long. The larva or grub spends about 10 months in the soil. The adult stage above ground lasts about two months. As larvae the pest can be moved long distances in soil as such, or in connection with nursery stock or other plants. The adult, a hitchhiker, can move great distances in airplanes, railway cars, etc. Suppression of populations, quarantine enforcement and insecticidal or other treatment of products, vehicles, airplanes and outlying infestations are effective in retarding spread. Research, begun shortly after the pest was first discovered in the United States, has contributed much to the effectiveness of the Federal quarantine which was promulgated in 1919.

CROPS AFFECTED

The beetle, in both the adult and larval stages, attacks a great variety of crops. As an adult it feeds upon such crops as tree and small fruits, corn, tobacco, horticultural crops, and ornamentals. In its larval stage it feeds on the roots of many plants, particularly lawns, turf, hay, pasture, etc.

DAMAGE AND ESTIMATED LOSSES

This pest is estimated to do more than 10 million dollars damage per year. In 1953 in one county in Virginia, it is reported to have cost \$40,000 to protect one crop alone - corn.

CONTROL PROGRAM

Federal quarantine was established in 1919. Under the Federal-State cooperative program to retard spread of this pest, which is now under way, it has taken 28 years for the generally infested area to expand from Riverton, N. J., to southern Maine, to eastern Ohio and to eastern North Carolina. This generally infested area in 15 States is about 5% of the United States land area.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Authority to control and prevent the spread of this pest is included in the Insect Pest Act of 1905 (7 U.S.C. 141-144), the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, as amended (7 U.S.C. 151-167) pertaining to domestic plant quarantines, and provisions of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147a) pertaining to pest control.

July 7, 1954



